Q1) Point out one feature in the practice of federalism in India that is similar to and one feature that is different from that of Belgium.

Ans: ***<u>Similar Feature:</u>*** One similar feature in the Federalism of India and Belgium is that both the countries have federations in which two types of governments are there and out of these two governments, central government is more powerful as compared to state governments and the central government has to share its powers with the state governments.

<u>Different Feature:</u> There are three types of governments in Belgium. First one is central government, second type is state government and third type of government is community government which is elected by people belonging to one language community and which has powers related to issues like educational, cultural, linguistic etc.

But unlike Belgium, India has a local self government (Panchayats for villages and Municipalities for Cities) in addition to the central and state governments; and the state government has to share some of its powers with the local governments.

Q2) What is the main difference between a federal form of government and a unitary one? Explain with an example.

Ans: In a federal form of government, the central government shares its powers with the various constituent units of the country. For example, in India, power is divided between the government at the centre and the various state governments. The division of powers between the union and the state government is provided under Article 245 and 246 and three legislative lists in the Seventh Schedule. The first is the Union List which consists of 100 subjects over which the Union Parliament has exclusive law-making power. The second is the State List which consists of 61 subjects over which State Legislatures have exclusive law making power. The third is the Concurrent List which consists of 52 subjects. Both the centre and the state can legislate on the subjects mentioned in the Concurrent List.

In a unitary form of government, all the power is exercised by only one government. For example, in Sri Lanka, the national government has all the powers. There is no constitutional provision for division of powers between the central and the provincial governments. The authority of the central government runs in all the provincial and local administration in Sri Lanka.

Q3) State any two differences between the local government before and after the Constitutional Amendment in 1992.

Ans: The two differences between the local government before and after the Constitutional Amendment in 1992 are listed as under:

i) The Panchayats in villages and the municipalities in the urban areas were set up in all the states. But these were directly under the control of state governments. Elections to these local governments were not held regularly. But after the Constitutional Amendment in 1992, it is constitutionally mandatory to hold regular elections to the local government bodies. Seats are reserved in the elected bodies for women, the scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other backward classes. An

independent institution called the State Election Commission has been created in each state to conduct Panchayats and Municipal elections.

ii) Local governments did not have any powers or resources of their own. There was very little decentralization in effective terms. But after the Constitutional Amendment in 1992, the state governments are required to share some powers and resources with local government bodies. The nature of sharing varies from state to state.

Q4) Here are three reactions to the language policy followed in India. Give an argument and an example to support any of these positions.

Sangeeta: The policy of accommodation has strengthened national unity.

Arman: Language based states has divided us by making everyone conscious of his her language.

Harish: This policy has only helped to consolidate the dominance of English over all other languages.

Ans: Sangeeta's reaction is better than those of the other two. Unlike Sri Lanka, where the language of the majority has been promoted, the Indian policy has given equal status to all the major languages spoken in the country. This has led to the avoidance of social conflict on linguistic basis. The policy of accommodation has made the administration of the states easier. The language policy of India is an attempt to instill a sense of respect of others' culture and this has definitely helped in strengthening national unity.

Q5) The distinguishing features of a federal government is:

(a) National government gives some powers to the provincial government.

(b) Power is distributed among the legislature, executive and judiciary.

(c) Elected officials exercise supreme power in the government.

(d) Government power is divided between different levels of government.

Ans: Answer to this question is option (d) that governmental power is divided between different levels of government. We can take example of India where powers are divided in Central government, State government and Local self governments.